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UM RESEARCHERS REPORT LITTLE CHANGE IN MONTANA'S WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

MISSOULA--

Lumber production, production employment and wages for Montana's wood products industry during the third quarter of 1985 were higher than for the second quarter of the year, according to a University of Montana research office.

The information on the Montana industry came from a quarterly survey conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in cooperation with the Montana Wood Products Association. The survey includes 32 plants that account for more than 90 percent of the state's wood products manufacturing activity.

Lumber production during the third quarter was reported at 356 million board feet, 25 million feet higher than the previous quarter. Plywood production was unchanged at 161 million square feet for the quarter.

Average monthly production employment of 4,644 workers was up slightly from the 4,484 workers in the previous quarter but remains below the 4,721 average for the third quarter of 1984. Total wages paid to production workers were \$28,390,000 in the third quarter of 1985, compared to \$26,620,000 for the second quarter of the year.

The figures refer only to production workers at mill sites and do not include the several thousand workers in logging, trucking and other related areas.